



The AOC Bruce Spivey Skills Development Award

GENERAL BRUCE SPIVEY SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS:

1. Full sponsorship covering course fees paid directly to course organisers
2. Travel to the course destination
3. A flat rate support allowance dependant on the course
4. Travel Insurance for the duration of the course

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- AOC members who were paid up in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025
- Must have licence to practice in home country or be a trainee in a recognised training programme(proof required)
- Must have confirmed admission or approved application to the eligible courses
- Age: all age groups eligible
- Countries: The scholarships are open to members from the African continent
- Not currently enrolled in any other course. (Associate members in training can apply)
- Must be a First-time beneficiary of AOC Scholarship Initiatives.

AOC BRUCE SPIVEY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2026 ELIGIBLE COURSES

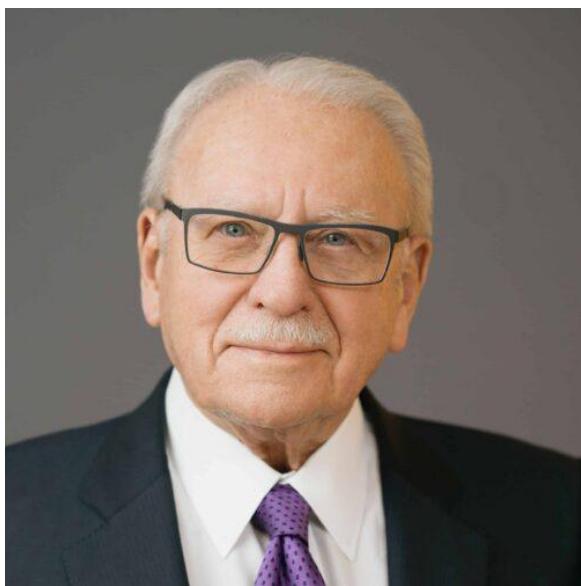
1. 3rd IUSG Basic Course in Uveitis in Africa, 13-17 April 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia application deadline January 31st. Registration link [here](#). **Scholarships will cover:**
 - **One Return economy class air ticket to Addis Ababa,**
 - **A flat rate incidentals allowance**
 - **Travel Insurance for the duration of the course**
2. Orbis /Haag Streit/Alcon Phaco emulsification intense simulation and wetlab training during AOC2026 July Cape Town South Africa. This scholarship is available only to those registered to attend the AOC2026 conference. **The scholarship will cover:**
 - **One Return economy class ticket to Cape Town,**
 - **A flat rate accommodation and incidentals allowance,**
 - **Travel Insurance for the duration of the course.**

Note that the scholarship will not cover AOC2026 registration fees as this is a prerequisite for application. Apply here or to secretariat@aocafrika.org

Link to awards application form : <https://form.jotform.com/260004242489553>



About Dr Bruce Spivey

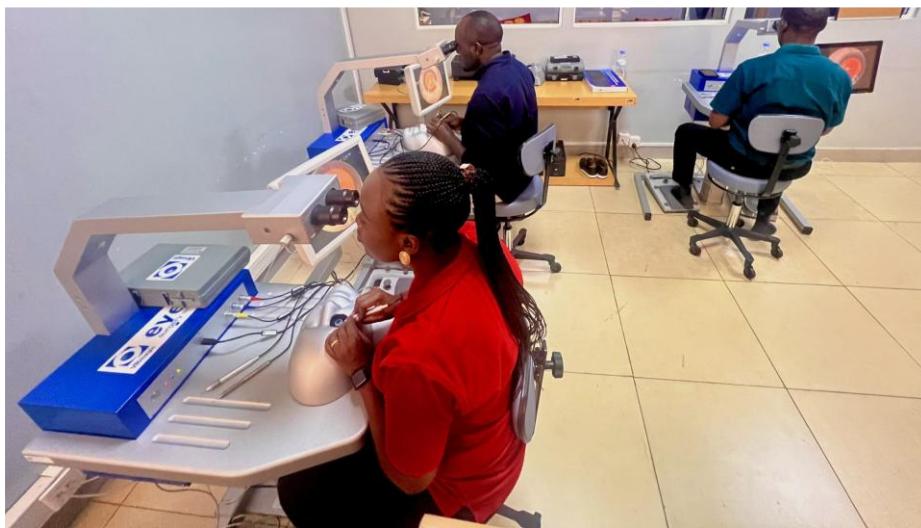


Dr. Bruce Spivey is a world-renowned American ophthalmologist and leader in medical education, often described as a "giant" in the field. He has held some of the most influential roles in global eye care, including serving as the President of the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) from 2006 to 2014 and the founding CEO of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). He has a significant and direct connection to African Ophthalmology through his leadership and philanthropic work aimed at improving eye care infrastructure and education on the continent. During his tenure at the ICO and later with the Ophthalmology Foundation, he championed "teaching the teachers." This initiative focuses on equipping African educators with the tools to train the next generation of local ophthalmologists, reducing the need for students to travel abroad for high-quality education. Dr. Spivey played a critical role in supporting the formation of the African Ophthalmology Council (AOC, the representative body for ophthalmologists across Africa). The Bruce Spivey Skills Development Award was launched by the AOC in honour of his contributions. It provides funding for African ophthalmologists or allied eye health professionals to undergo short intensive training to learn specific subspecialty research, medical or surgical skills. Dr. Spivey is widely recognized not just for his administrative brilliance, but for his humanity and collaborative leadership, consistently working to ensure that high-quality eye care is accessible regardless of a country's income level.



AOC –Orbis Cataract Surgery Learning Lab

in collaboration with Haag Streit and Alcon



Participation to this Training Lab is supported by Orbis, Alcon, Haag Streit, and AOC.

Registration is mandatory but is free of cost. The application form is attached as a pdf or can be accessed [here](#).

This combined training program offers a unique, holistic learning experience designed to accelerate your journey toward "surgical readiness." Participants will engage in intensive, one-on-one coaching using the **Haag-Streit Eyesi Surgical simulator**—a validated tool for mastering all aspects of cataract surgery—alongside **Alcon wet labs** and artificial eyes. Led by renowned experts like Marshall Dial and Dr. Ivo Ferreira, this course provides an active learning environment where aspiring surgeons can take the early steps to master essential **capsulorhexis and phaco techniques**, ensuring they become safe and effective practitioners.

Educational Objectives

Integrate an active learning experience for Phacoemulsification Cataract surgery using a modern holistic training model that blends virtual reality and wet lab

Offer African YO's already doing MSICS a unique active learning experience to begin transition to Phaco

Who can apply

Ophthalmologists who are registered to attend AOC2026 Congress in CapeTown.

Ophthalmologists working in Africa will be given priority

Applicants must have access to a phacoemulsification machine and supplies post training

Must have basic+ skills in MSICS training

Cataract Surgical trainers in faculty in training programs in Africa

Prerequisites

Must commit to completing the provided online pre-learning material before the hands on session



IUSG BASIC COURSE IN UVEITIS



The 3rd Basic Course in Uveitis in Africa

April 13 - 17, 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



The International Uveitis Study Group (IUSG), under the auspices of the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) will be conducting the 3rd Uveitis Course in Africa, which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the ILRI Agaze conference center, between April 13 and 17, 2026.

This course is intended for Ophthalmologists interested in deepening their knowledge of ocular inflammation, and in particular those who are considering pursuing a career in this field, as well as ophthalmologists who want an in-depth refresher on uveitis.

All aspects from diagnosis to therapy will be covered with didactic lectures, three small interactive group sessions, and case discussions provided by the attendees and faculty. Among the topics to be addressed: clinical evaluation of uveitis patients, effective use of diagnostic and laboratory tests, use and relevance of imaging techniques, and the optimal use of immunosuppressive therapy. The interactive program will allow in-depth discussions between alumni and staff regarding both simple and more complex cases. Enough time is provided for one-on-one discussion with the faculty.

The faculty is composed of highly experienced IUSG-members who are well known for their teaching skills.

Sponsors of the Uveitis course include:

- International Uveitis Study Group (IUSG)
- Cure Blindness, Sight for Souls (SFS) & Massachusetts Eye and Ear (MEE)

Early bird ends

**Jan. 31, 2026
Register today!**

Conference Fee:

The fee includes the following items:

- ◆ Participation in the course and the course materials
- ◆ Social events and a city excursion in Addis Ababa
- ◆ CME credit hours (application in process)
- ◆ Accommodations for 5 nights from April 13-17, 2026 (including breakfast, lunch and dinner).

Earlybird fee (in Euros): €700 for African participants or €1800 for other international participants

Registration:

Complete the [online registration](#) form or contact Sight for Souls at: administration@sightforsouls.org. Please reference "IUSG course in Ethiopia" in the subject line. The registration is considered completed only after the conference fee has been paid.

Ethiopian participants, please contact SFS at administration@sightforsouls.org for cost information.

Logistics support and further instructions will be provided by the SFS office in Addis Ababa following registration.



Course Organizer
Dr. John Kempen
IUSG Member



www.IUSG.net

[Registration is available here](#)